

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Weekly Summary

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E. Navy

I. GDR

Building Program of Berlin Shipyard

Status: December 1957

1. SCHWALBES: Construction has temporarily been stopped after the delivery of 42 boats.
2. SPERBER: Technical data: overall length, 26 meters; length on designed waterline, 24.15 meters; length between perpendiculars, 24.0 meters; width, 4.35 meters; designed draft, 1.15 meters; maximum draft, 1.4 meters; calculated displacement 99 tons; demanded speed between 16 to 18 knots; 1 x 530 HP diesel 8 KVD 21 of the VEB Motorenwerk Johannisthal, 12-man crew.

The vessel may be commissioned as either torpedo recovery vessel or smoke-laying vessel; in case of the torpedo recovery vessel, no davit is provided for, so that torpedoes will be towed or taken alongside the ships. During test runs, however, the taking aboard and storage of 4 torpedoes has also been taken into consideration. Boat [] has been in service since []. With four torpedoes aboard deck it reached a speed of 13.22 knots.

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Boat [] will possibly be ready for commission []

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Boat [] are scheduled to be finished []

3. Cable barges: length, 18 to 20 meters, not self-propelled; 1 cable reel, 2.3 meters in diameter and 3 meters in width; 4-man crew. One vessel definitely known to have been built; further plans unknown.

4. Floating tanks: useful load, an estimated 60 cubic meters of fuel; displacement when submerged, about 400 tons; overall length about 18 meters, diameter 5.8 to 6 meters. The first of a series of 4 tanks was transferred to Wulst for final fittings []. Three more will be transferred soon. The construction of another 26 tanks is planned [].

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5. Jet propulsion (arranged in Z-form): developmental work still confirmed. [] a total of 122 devices are scheduled to be constructed.

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6. One revenue vessel: speed 15 knots; radar; 8-man crew; overall length 24.5 meters; length between perpendiculars, 22 meters; width 5.0 meters; draft, 1.58 meters; 3 propellers; 3 engines. Completion scheduled for third quarter [].

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7. Small motorboats type REIHER: length, 6.5 meters; with Sachsenring motors, 26 knots; later, with SIM motors, 32 knots.
It was said that the USSR ordered the construction of 50 such boats and Bulgaria 5 boats; some are apparently scheduled for commission with the VP/See for operation on the Spree River.
8. One pilot tender; completion planned [redacted] 25X1
9. Motor passenger ships for 80 persons: the second ship had recently been delivered to the town of Brandenburg, with NVA officers having been present. Another ship is scheduled for completion [redacted] 25X1
10. Four-seat motorboat: 5 meters long (Z-form propulsion?). One boat of this type had been accepted by three Soviets wearing civilian clothes [redacted] the boat was placed on a two-wheel chassis and towed away by a Soviet Jeep [redacted] 25X1
11. Lifting cylinder with an estimated lifting performance of 200 tons. Four lifting cylinders were under construction; the devices are scheduled to be transferred to Peene Shipyard Wolgast for testing.
12. Except for the vessels and devices mentioned, the 1958 plan provides for the following boats and material:
 - 3 harbor launches
 - 3 water buses
 - 2 x 10 meters life boats
 - 96 wooden life boats
 - 2 passenger boats
 - 1 inspector's launch, presumably for harbor control.
 - 5 passenger ships for 250 persons
 - 16 stream patrol boats
 - 3 dredgers

In addition, fire boats, landing craft, sporting boats, and sailing boats for which no construction numbers and terms of delivery are given, were planned for construction [redacted] 25X1

II. Poland

Acceptance of One Destroyer and Four Submarine Chasers by the Polish Navy

[redacted] 1 destroyer, probably of SKORY type, and 4 submarine chasers of KRONSTADT type were at position 54°35' N / 18°56.5' E on course toward Gdynia, running line ahead. The unit was met by a Polish submarine chaser of KRONSTADT type coming from Helia naval harbor. It moved in front of the destroyer and took over the lead [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: The vessel mentioned are presumably identical with the five Soviet units, namely 1 destroyer and 4 submarine chasers, which, as had been mentioned by the Polish broadcast [redacted] were taken over by the Polish Navy on that day. The ships, had possibly [redacted] 25X1

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come from the Pillau area, and, [] were presumably conveyed to Gdynia under the lead of a Polish submarine chaser which met them off Hel. The destroyer which was taken over is said to have been named GROM, and the submarine chasers were allegedly given the names GROZNY, WYTRWALY, ZRECZNY, and ZWINNY.)

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D. Air Force

I. USSR

1. Location of Troops

Observations made between mid-May and mid-Jul 1957 confirmed that Dnepropetrovsk airfield (48 33 N / 35 06 E) has a runway covered with steel planking and is occupied by jet fighters.

In Oct 1957, a Soviet ground attack regiment (MiG-15s) with about 30 jet fighters with Soviet [redacted] was observed at Ohlau airfield (50 59 N / 17 15 E).

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2. Command and Training of Troops

Since Nov 1957, the Twenty-Fourth Air Army has conducted very little air activity. The bad-weather period from Nov to Feb is usually used for major overhauling work on flying equipment, in addition to theoretical instruction, particularly of newly arrived young pilots from the fall personnel exchange. Regular air activity is expected after late Feb.

3. Logistics

In connection with improvement work on various strips of autobahn in Soviet Zone Germany, it was learned from a division commander of the Polish Army in Apr 1957 that the Soviets had blocked the autobahn leaving Sagan (51 37 N / 15 19 E) and extending west and converted it into a runway.

(Comment: This is the first info that auxiliary runways have also been established in the Polish area.)

II. GDR

1. Location of Troops

Since 12 Dec 1957, Neuhardenberg (Marxwalde) airfield has been equipped with a radio installation consisting of 4 radio trucks and 2 Kniferests located 600 meters north of the runway. Assigned troops incl one first lieutenant and 40 men of the NVA/L. No indications on origin available. Changes in the location of NVA/L units are expected in connection with the planned evacuation of Rothenburg airfield and the re-occupation of Bautzen-Litten airfield.

2. Order of Battle

Based on various reports it is assumed that the NVA/L has the following aircraft strength as of late Dec 1957:

NVA/L Hq Cottbus

2 UMIG-15s
2 YAK-18s
2 Trainers
1 Sokol
2 IL-14s
3 AN-2s) in Strausberg
2 Aero-45s)

Hq 1st Ftr Div Cottbus

2 UMIG-15s
2 YAK-18s

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1st Ftr Wing Cottbus	18 MIG-17 Cs 8 MIG-15s 2 UMIG-15s 10 (?) YAK-11s
2nd Ftr Wing Cottbus	10 MIG-15s 2 UMIG-15s 10 (?) YAK-11s
3rd Ftr Wing Jockendorf	16 MIG-17 Cs 7 MIG-15s 4 UMIG-15s 15 YAK-11s
Hq 3rd Ftr Div Drewitz	2 UMIG-15s 2 YAK-18s
7th Ftr Wing Drewitz	18 MIG-17 Cs 3 UMIG-15s 10 (?) YAK-11s
8th Ftr Wing Jockendorf	16 MIG-17 Cs 7 MIG-15s 3 UMIG-15s 10 (?) YAK-11s
9th Ftr Wing Drewitz	18 MIG-15s 2 UMIG-15s 10 (?) YAK-11s
Tow and Liaison Squadron Cottbus	2 YAK-11s 2 YAK-18 3 Trainers 4 Sokols 6 (?) AN-2s 2 Aero-45s
Ftr School Kamenz	
1st Tng Regt Kamenz	34 YAK-18s 1 Trainer
2nd Tng and	
3rd Tng Pögte Rothenburg	9 MIG-17 Cs 10 MIG-15s 5 UMIG-15s 25 YAK-18s
Air Transport School IL-14 Squadron Dessau	
	5 IL-14s
AN-2s Squadron Brandenburg-Briest	24 YAK-11s parked there on 13 Dec 1957
	13 AN-2s

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Total aircraft strength:

77 MIG-17 Cs
51 MIG-15s
29 UMIG-15s
91 YAK-11s
66 YAK-18s
6 Ireners
5 Sokols
7 IL-14s
22 AN-2s
4 Agro-45s

(Comment: The MIG-17s which were assigned to the 3rd and 8th Wings in Jockendorf in Aug 1957 arrived by rail from Poland. No information has been received that the 2nd and 9th Wings were also equipped with MIG-17s.

The total number of 51 MIG-15s does not include the 40 MIG-15s assigned to both 3rd and 8th Wings (20 each); these aircraft were reportedly transferred; their present location is not known.

Presumably not all of the UMIG-15s assigned to the wings were determined. It is assumed that 4-5 UMIG-15s are assigned to each wing.

Contrary to other reports YAK-11s have apparently not yet been released for air activity. The 3rd Wing in Jockendorf was equipped with 15 YAK-11s in mid-Oct 1957; 24 YAK-11s were in Brandenburg-Briest in mid-Dec 1957.

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 Annex: Part C

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 Details on Far "Training" GMI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

a. Artillery

 30 Nov, 8x122-mm field guns en route to Elbe tag gr

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(Comment: Presum also 10th Hvy Arty Bde/5th Arty Div departing for firing practices.)

b. AAA

 7, 8, and 10 Dec, each day, one column of 6x100-mm AA guns, 2 fire control directors, 1 charging unit, 8 M-50 prime movers Unit Eisenbahn Pioneer Kaneros (3381) in Reitzgen toward March

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(Comment: Presum also 26 Gds AAA Div/CSAC leaving for operations near post.)

 23/24 Dec, 4 ships Kuesen/Kiets - Graefswald distr

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24/25 Dec, 3 ships Frankfurt/Oder - Graefswald distr

(Comment: Presum also 30 AAA Div/CSAC from Kuesen and Frankfurt/Oder transferring for firing practices, presum at Wustrow.)

 20 Dec, Stannaher station: loading of 4x37-mm AA guns, 1 horsecar with soldiers

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(Comment: Presum also 11st AAA Div/Second Gds Heavy Arty (Task) transferring for firing practices.)

 14 Dec, Artillerie Kaneros (3342), Perleberg: tracks of numerous vehs leading from the installation to nr station. Perleberg nr station: 1 parking train loaded with 7 presum 85-mm AA guns, 6-30 horsecars, and 2 horsecars occupied by soldiers

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(Comment: Presum also AAA Regt/10th Hvy Arty Div transferring for firing practices, possibly at Wustrow.)

c. U/I Shipments

 13 Dec, 1 ship Dresden/Daustadt - Altruppa

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C. Army

I. USSR

1. Location

a. GDR

14 Dec, indications that AAA unit so far stationed at Justerbog-Damm (3203) has been transferred to installation Justerbog II (3202). Former parking area of AA unit in Justerbog-Damm now being utilized as coal storage area.

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(Comment.

Presum transfer 2497th AAA Regt/14th Gds Mecz Div within Justerbog post.)

2. Training (GDR)

Training of Soviet army troops continued to be restricted to individual tng, and small scale tng in driving and firing until late Dec 1957. Tng of AAA units was more intensive. Individual batteries conducted 1-day exercises near posts and, beginning in mid-Dec, first units again transferred to Wustrow AAA firing range, incl elms 32d AAA Div/GSFG from Frankfurt/Oder and Kuestrin, presum elms 31st AAA Div/Second Gds Mecz Army (Tr) from Schoenwalde and presum elms AAA Regt/18th Mecz Div from Perleberg.

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(Comment.

Tng activities of GSFG units normal for this time of year. Personnel exchange continued.)

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3. Personnel

Div Commander Gen Zychev, Fritsch Kaszema (5544), Schwerin, retransferred to USSR in Dec 1957. Successor not yet known

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(Comment.

Gen Zychev has been known as C/O 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div (mecz) since mid-1956. Presum routine transfer.

II. Poland

Training

Relatively great importance attached to chemical tng of all branches of service of Polish Army. In 1957, a mtz rifle

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regt had a "chemical day" every Thursday. On this day, all members of the regt, except for regt C/O and deputy, wore gas masks, in the beginning of the year for 1 hour and toward the end of the year up to 8 hours, with a 20-minute interruption during lunch time. On "chemical days", all activities indicated on duty roster were executed with gas masks. Accord to a regulation, units practicing with gas masks got a 10-minute break pro hour

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(Comment.)

Assumed that commanders in charge of tng follow only general lines, i.e. tng differs with individual units. Theoretical and practical chemical instruction mentioned in almost all reports on tng of Polish Army. Mock alerts of headquarters units under assumed chemical warfare conditions also observed. Several reports indicated that 1957 maneuvers and command-post exercises of Polish forces repeatedly included assumed chemical warfare conditions.

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Annex to Part B, I,

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Personnel Exchange

From 7 to 23 December 1957, the following additional border-crossing personnel shipments were observed: (C/B - Converted Boxcar)

Date in December	Type of Shipment	From	To
7	56 loaded C/B	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/Oder
8	loaded	Kuestrin	Cottbus distr
	loaded	Kuestrin	Cottbus distr
	loaded	Kuestrin	Cottbus distr
	loaded	Kuestrin	Cottbus distr
	loaded ?	Magdeburg	Brest-Litovsk
10	56 loaded C/B	Brest-Litovsk	Cottbus distr
	56 loaded C/B	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/Oder
11	116 axles (850 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Dranse
	116 axles (800 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Kuestrin
11/12	116 axles (850 tons)	Justerbog/ Altes Lager	Frankfurt/Oder
12	116 axles (900 tons)	Bernau	Kuestrin
	116 axles (900 tons)	Dranse	Brest-Litovsk
	56 loaded C/B	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/Oder
13/14	116 axles (800 tons)	Cottbus distr	Kuestrin
	116 axles (800 tons)	Cottbus distr	Dranse
	116 axles (800 tons)	Justerbog/ Altes Lager	Frankfurt/Oder
14	116 axles (900 tons)	Bernau	Frankfurt/Oder
	116 axles (800 tons)	Cottbus distr	Brest-Litovsk
15	58 C/B (900 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Fuerstenberg
15/16	116 axles (800 tons)	Greifswald distr	Cottbus distr

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Date in December	Type of Shipment	From	To
16	116 axles (800 tons)	Cottbus distr	Kuestrin
	116 axles (900 tons)	Kuestrin	Magdeburg distr
	58 G/B (900 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Dranse
16/17	116 axles (800 tons)	Jueterbog/ Altes Lager	Frankfurt/Oder
17	116 axles (900 tons)	Bernau	Kuestrin
	116 axles (900 tons)	Halle distr	Jueterbog/ Altes Lager
	116 axles (850 tons)	Cottbus distr	Frankfurt/Oder
18	116 axles (900 tons)	Greifswald distr	Frankfurt/Oder
	116 axles (850 tons)	Jueterbog/ Altes Lager	Halle distr
	116 axles (900 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Cottbus distr
	116 axles (500 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Cottbus distr
18/19	116 axles (850 tons)	Cottbus distr	Brest-Litovsk
19	116 axles (850 tons)	Cottbus distr	Kuestrin
	116 axles (900 tons)	Bernau	Kuestrin
	116 axles (600 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Greifswald distr
20	116 axles (850 tons)	Frankfurt/Oder	Greifswald distr
20/21	116 axles (850 tons)	Jueterbog/ Altes Lager	Kuestrin
21	116 axles (900 tons)	Bernau	Cottbus distr
21/22	116 axles (850 tons)	Greifswald distr	Brest-Litovsk
	116 axles (650 tons)	Cottbus distr	Kuestrin

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Date in December	Type of Shipment	From	To		25X1
22	116 axles (850 tons)	Justerbog/ Altas Lager	Halle distr		
23	116 axles (850 tons)	Cottbus distr	Kuestrin		

(Comment: Above 43 shipments increase number of shuttle trains crossing the border in both directions to a total of 143.)

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B. Armed Forces

I. USSR and "United Forces" (Warsaw Pact)

1. Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel

- a. On 12 Dec, Gen (Tank) M.I. Katukov mentioned as Chief of Main Administration Combat Tng Ground Forces.

(Comment: M.I. Katukov reported in following positions: 1941, Col and C/O 4th Tk Brig which distinguished itself in battle near Mzensk in 1941 and was redesignated 1st Gds Tk Brig; Nov 1941, Brig Gen; Jan 1942, still C/O 1st Gds Tk Brig; Jul 1942, C/O 1 Tk Corps; Jan 1943, Maj Gen; Jun 1943 Commander-in-Chief First Tk Army, subsequently First Gds Tk Army; Apr 1944, Gen of Arm Command; until 1946, Commander-in-Chief First Gds Tk Army; 1947-1948 Commander-in-Chief First Gds Mecz Army; 1949-1951, Commander of GSFG tk and mecz forces; 1954 until late 1955, presum commander armored and mecz forces in White Russian MD; since 1957, in Moscow, presum already as Deputy Chief of Main Adm Combat Tng Ground Forces.)

- b. On 17 Dec, Rear Admiral V.N. Alexeyev mentioned as Chief-of-Staff of Baltic Fleet.

(Comment: In Apr 1953, Rear Admiral Vladimir Nikolayevich Alexeyev was awarded a service medal. In Jan 1955, he was nominated in Libau for election to Supreme Soviet of Latvian SSR and was elected in Mar 1955.)

2. Organization

Speakers at rallies of party activists recently called in in several MDs always included generals who were referred to as members of War Council and Chiefs of Political Administration of MDs. Generals mentioned in connection with Kiev MD included Maj Gen N.M. Alexandrov, previously member of War Council and Deputy Political Commander, now Member of War Council and Chief Political Adm and Brig Gen A.G. Gromov, previously Chief of Political Adm, now First Deputy Chief of Political Adm; and in the Moscow MD: Maj Gen F.A. Dubovskoi as member of War Council and Chief of Political Adm; Worth noting that, so far, Deputy Political Commander generally held rank of Maj Gen, while Chief of Political Adm held rank of Brig Gen.

(Comment: Following Plenary Session of Communist Party Central Committee in October, positions of Deputy Political Commander and Chief of Political Adm in Military Districts apparently united, with Chief of Political Adm being simultaneously Member of War Council. Purpose of this reorganization believed to be strengthening of positions of Chiefs of Political Adm who are dependent from party directives, and extension of authorities of Political Adm in Military Districts, thus intensifying political indoctrination and training of troops.

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3. Total Strength

Personnel Exchange (GDR - USSR)

Until 23 Dec, following additional pers shpmts observed crossing the border:

USSR - GDR 16 loaded and 2 empty trains.

GDR - USSR 24 loaded and 1 empty train

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(Comment: Personnel exchange continued at full speed throughout second half of Dec. So far, total of 143 shpmts observed crossing border.)

II. Poland

Interior Order. Political

In press article of Dec 1957, the commander of the 4th (Silesian) MD Breslau, Brig Gen C. Waryszak, commented on purpose and results of purge of "United Polish Workers Party" for Armed Forces. Gen W. said that party motive power with regard to tng and indoctrination of armed forces that party does not directly interfere with commanders' authorities or discusses or criticizes orders, but indicates general political line and expects that advice and critics be paid attention to. Officers expelled from party because of lack of political activity not to be discriminated; maintain all rights and duties as civilians and officers. Officers excluded because of "misdemeanours" and "deviation from party line" may expect transfer for disciplinary reasons or discharge (Zolnierz wolnosci of 2 Dec 1957).

(Comment: This comment by Gen Waryszak, who became Commander of 4th MD shortly after beginning of Gomulka course, is an additional indication of increased political activities and control of armed forces by Communist "United Polish Workers Party".)

III. Czechoslovakia

"United" Headquarters (Warsaw Pact) - Combined Exercises of National Armed Forces

Soviet field-grade officers and a Soviet general were observed at various posts and tng grounds of Czech Army also in Oct and Nov 1957. So far, no entire Soviet units observed in Slovakia

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(Comment: Info again confirms presence of Soviet advisors but fails to confirm other reports, accord to which Soviet troops stationed in Slovakia.)

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